

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Crawfordsville High School

other names/site number Athena Center Senior Housing

2. Location

street & number 201 East Jefferson Street N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Crawfordsville N/A ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Montgomery code 107 zip code 47933

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

- ☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

- ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

- ☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Crawfordsville High School
Name of Property

Montgomery IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object
☐ landscape

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Indiana's Public Common & High Schools

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. AMER.: Prairie School

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
STONE: Limestone
roof ASPHALT
other METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1911-1952

Significant Dates

1911

1914

1921

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Patton & Miller

9. Major Bibliographic References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other
- Name of repository:

Crawfordsville District Public Library; Athena Senior

Crawfordsville High School
Name of Property

Montgomery IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 508550 4431720
Zone Easting Northing

2

3

4

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Baumgarten
organization date 09-22-2002
street & number 2005 N. Pennsylvania Street telephone 317/ 926-9660
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46202

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Crawfordsville Community Housing LP
street & number 429 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 10 telephone 317/ 262-4999
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46204

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 1 of 7

Crawfordsville High School
Montgomery County, Indiana

Narrative Description:

EXTERIOR

Crawfordsville High School, 1910, is located on a square bounded by School, Jefferson, Seminary, and College Streets, southwest of downtown Crawfordsville. The building, which faces north on Jefferson Street, is set back from the property line on the east, north, and west sides. A paved, semicircular drive exists on the north side; the remainder of this area is landscaped, with a new playground to the east. The east and west sides of the property are paved parking. The school is adjacent to the Elston Grove Historic District.

The symmetrical-plan building is two stories high with a raised basement (Photo 1). Vestiges of the original I plan are extant in the projections on the east and west ends of the north elevation. The Prairie School style building features a low, cross-hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves, wood soffits, and a repousse copper cornice. The roof was originally sheathed in terra cotta pan tiles, and is now asphalt shingle. Walls are constructed primarily of dark, variegated brick: Roman brick for the upper-story walls laid in a Flemish bond, and standard brick for the raised basement set in running bond. Decorative features on the brick walls – including pilaster capitals, stringcourses, panels, sills and lintels, and denticulated cornices – are created using corbelled brickwork.

The building is divided vertically by brick pilasters, which rest on limestone bases. They are positioned over brick plinths accented with corbelled rectangular panels. Narrow, single-story piers subdivide bays between the pilasters. Brick spandrels between the first and second floors are accented with corbelled brick panels. A limestone water table horizontally separates the basement from the first floor around the entire building. Vertical wall divisions are accented at the cornice level with geometric wreath and pendant decorations, some of which are missing.

The primary entrance to the building is centered on the north elevation, and accessed via a poured concrete sidewalk that rises to the level of the door sill (Photo 2). Three pair of single-light, oak sash doors with fixed, two-light transoms are separated by limestone pilasters. The pilasters are constructed from smooth ashlar units and topped with simple geometric capitals. The entrance features a canopy suspended from square-link wrought-iron chain, which is attached to the wall with large wrought-iron hooks set in square limestone blocks. The canopy consists of three segmental arches, and has a stucco ceiling, pressed sheet metal face, and decoratively sawn rafter tails. The sheet metal decoration is similar to the copper cornice, including geometric wreath and pendant decorations. Above the canopy are three openings that are filled with rectangular limestone panels. Above these is a stone panel that reads: A.D. • HIGH SCHOOL • 1910. Other, similar entries are located on the north ends of the east and west sides of the building. These entrances are narrower than the north entrance, with a single pair of oak doors flanked by four-light sidelights. These entrances are accessed via limestone steps, flanked by large limestone blocks with beveled tops.

On the south end of the building, the gymnasium projects from the main façade (Photo 4). Poured concrete stairs lead to the Gymnasium entrances, located on cut-away corners at the ends of the projection. These entrances have a molded limestone surround, with the word “GYMNASIUM” carved above. Each entrance has five 2-panel, 9-light metal sash doors. Original classroom entrances are located on the east and west ends of the main wall. These are constructed of brick with limestone copings; three 2-panel, 9-light metal sash doors provide access.

Typically, window bays are divided into single openings, with the exception of the windows at the south ends of the east and west elevations; here the sash are grouped in threes. The windows are wood, double-hung, 2 over 2, with the upper sash approximately 1/3 the size of the lower sash. Basement windows are fourthly 2/3 the height of the windows on the floors above. Gymnasium windows are steel-frame, multi-light windows glazed with wire glass (Photo 3): basement and first story windows are nine-light with a central operable awning sash; second story windows are twelve-light with two central operable awning sash. Windows in north and south stairs are fifteen-light with the two central, lower sash being operable.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7

Page 2 of 7

**Crawfordsville High School
Montgomery County, Indiana**

INTERIOR

School

The main entrance to the building is from the north. Exterior doors open into a large vestibule. Access to the basement is via secondary vestibules to the east and west; an elevator that services all floors is located in the west. The first floor is accessed through three adjacent openings: double single-light wood sash doors with a glazed transom in the center opening, and matching single doors to the right and left. A wide stair leads to the first floor, and has its original plaster walls and ceiling, wall-mounted oak handrails, and two floor-mounted brass handrails. The floor and treads have been carpeted.

The stair opens onto an east-west corridor, which retains its original plaster walls and ceilings, and the original terrazzo floor, the center of which has been carpeted. Two non-original, half-height wood-and-glass partition walls with central, single-light wood sash doors restrict access to the residential areas of the building.

Access to the second floor and basement is provided by stairs which correspond to the exterior entrances on the north end of the east and west elevations. Small vestibules exist at the landings between the first floor and basement levels. The stairs retain nearly all of their original features: plaster walls, terrazzo landings, wall-mounted oak handrails, and a central railing with oak handrails, square iron pickets, painted iron mounting brackets, and painted cast iron newels (Photo 6,9). The newels have Wrightian geometric caps and pendant decorations. Stair treads have been carpeted.

In the north-south corridors, doors to residential units have been placed in gypsum board extensions which project into the original hallway. Dropped acoustical tile ceilings on the first and second floors have been set back from original window openings in the exterior walls. Floors are carpeted.

Original classroom and office spaces on all three floors have been subdivided into one- and two-bedroom housing units. These spaces typically feature carpet and vinyl floors, gypsum board walls, and dropped, gypsum board ceilings with a textured finish. In all of these spaces, dropped ceilings and partition walls have been set back from original window openings to prevent obstruction.

Auditorium

The auditorium is accessed from the first floor north-south corridor. The auditorium retains its original, two-story proscenium and suspended gallery (Photo 12). The proscenium is on the south wall, and the gallery wraps around the west, east, and north walls. The curve of the gallery matches the rounded corners of the proscenium. Both the proscenium and gallery are accented with simple plaster moldings. The space is illuminated by a large, rectangular skylight that is oriented east-west. The skylight is divided into four square segments by large mullions; each panel is divided into nine smaller square segments by smaller, crossed mullions. Each small segment is glazed with four square lights of clear glass divided by crossed muntins.

The gallery is supported by metal rods that are apparently anchored to the ceiling structure. Polygonal wood pendants are placed at the junction between the rod and the ceiling. The floor of the gallery is made of a series of wood risers, which are curved to match the curve of the gallery. A painted metal pipe railing is mounted on top of the gallery knee wall.

The original audience space has been partially divided into offices by gypsum board partition walls, but the majority of the original seating and sports area remains open. The floor is level, and has been carpeted. The space under the gallery has been partially enclosed and subdivided into offices with gypsum board partitions. These partition walls have been recessed from the face of the gallery. The original stage area has also been subdivided into offices with gypsum board partitions. The partition walls have been set back from the face of the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7

Page 3 of 7

**Crawfordsville High School
Montgomery County, Indiana**

proscenium. These offices connect with the space underneath via a carpeted ramp. The basement area has been subdivided into rooms with gypsum board partition walls.

Gymnasium

As it exists today, the main gymnasium retains all of its original finishes (Photo 13). Floors are poured concrete, walls are glazed block and plaster, and the hipped ceiling is painted wood with exposed steel trusses. Original fixtures include a wooden basketball floor, poured concrete risers mounted with wood and cast iron bench, metal pipe handrails, two illuminated scoreboards, and six retractable basketball goals. Two original locker rooms are located under the south risers. These retain their original plaster ceiling, glazed block and plaster walls, and metal lockers.

Outside access is provided in the southeast and southwest corners. In each opening are five wooden, 9-light, 2-panel sash doors that lead into a vestibule. Interior access to stairs and corridors is provided in the northeast and northwest corners. The interior stairs, which correspond to the exterior classroom entrances on the east and west ends of the south elevation, retain their original glazed block and plaster walls, plaster ceilings, half-height poured-concrete interior walls, and wall-mounted metal handrails.

At the basement level the space has been subdivided. A section of the floor has been raised to accommodate a lap pool and whirlpool tub. A gypsum board partition wall has divided the remaining space. The original vinyl tile floor is exposed in the smaller of these spaces (Photo 5), while the larger space is carpeted.

On the upper levels, original east and west corridors retain their inset metal lockers and wood and glass trophy cases, and glazed block and plaster walls. Corridor ceilings are suspended acoustical tile (Photo 14). Original classroom spaces have been divided into dwelling units with vinyl and carpeted floors, gypsum board walls, and suspended acoustical tile ceilings.

ALTERATIONS

1914: In 1914, the school was extended to the south on the east and west sides of the building (Photo 1, 4). This was planned for when the school was originally constructed. Original plans indicate areas of the south walls of the east and west wings that were to be removed for extending the building. The exterior of the original building was slavishly copied in these extensions. Construction materials were closely matched to the original building, including the dark Roman brick, limestone water table, pan-tile roof, and wooden eaves. Fenestration patterns and sash configurations were also duplicated, with the exception of the south end, where window sash were placed in two groups of three and separated with a narrow brick pier.

1921: An auditorium was constructed between the two extensions of 1914. This addition created the two light wells between the east and west wings. At the basement level was the cafeteria. Above was space for performance, indoor sporting events, and school gatherings. It features a large, molded plaster proscenium, and a suspended gallery with a tiered wooden floor.

1941: The 1941 construction of a gymnasium — a project of the Works Progress Administration — brought the footprint of Crawfordsville High School to its southernmost limits. Stylistically, it continued all of the decorative features — construction materials, decorative elements, and fenestration patterns — to make the structure a visually unified whole.

2000: Crawfordsville High School was converted to mixed-use as part of a Federal Economic Tax Act project #1867. The exterior and key interior spaces retain the character of a school building. The work was approved at both the State and National levels.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8

Page 4 of 7

**Crawfordsville High School
Montgomery County, Indiana**

Narrative Statement of Significance:

Crawfordsville High School is significant in the areas of Education and Architecture. Construction and expansion of the school aligns with trends in Indiana education detailed in Multiple Property Listing for Indiana's Public Common and High Schools. The building is listed as an outstanding example of Prairie School architecture in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. The work of Chicago architects Patton and Miller, it served as the high school for the town of Crawfordsville from 1911 until 1992, when the school corporation completed work on a new high school building.

The land on which the high school is located, historically known as Jefferson Square, has been used for purposes of education since 1852, and was the site of Central High School, completed in 1873. While it was referred to as a "high school," all twelve grades were housed in the building. Population growth and increased school attendance soon resulted in overcrowding at Central High School, and new grade schools were built. Three were built in the 1880s: Lincoln – renamed Horace Mann – (1881), Wilson (c. 1885), and Mills (1888). In the early 1900s, three additional grade schools were built: Tuttle (1906), Beard (1916), and a new Lincoln School (1922). Two township schools – Highland and Fiskville became part of the school system in 1910 as a result of annexations. The Central High School building remained on the site until circa 1919, when construction work began on the new auditorium for Crawfordsville High School.

Crawfordsville High School was one of the Indiana consolidated schools formed in the early 20th Century. When it was completed, it contained rooms for classes that had not previously been a part of local high school education. Manual training had been initiated in the old high school in 1908, but was expanded in the new building. Included was a large domestic science department, and rooms for music, art, and mechanical drawing

Though larger than the first high school, the new high school was soon inadequate. The first addition to Crawfordsville High School was completed in 1914 the extension of the wings on the east and west sides of the building for additional classrooms. This expansion was planned and accommodated for in the original design of the school, as is indicated on the original cross section drawings with the note "brick wall removable for future expansion of corridors."

In 1921, an auditorium/gymnasium was constructed in the space between the two east and west wings. The last addition, which extended the school to the southernmost edge of the property, was a new gymnasium with additional classroom space. This was undertaken as a Works Progress Administration project, and was completed in 1941.

Crawfordsville High School is also significant for its architecture. The prominent Chicago architectural firm of Patton and Miller designed the original structure. It is not known whether the same and successor firm designed the building's additions, which continue the massing, materials, fenestration patterns, and decorative details of the original. Characteristics that identify the building with the Prairie School style include the low-pitched, hipped roof with wide eaves, two-story pilasters, geometric ornamentation, contrasting horizontal trim, and use of Roman brick. Despite two substantial additions, careful attention to matching to original design and materials resulted in a building that reads as a unified whole. Adaptation of the building in 2000 for use as residential housing, offices, and a health and fitness center has had minimal impact on the exterior appearance of the building, and has resulted in the preservation of significant aspects of the interior.

Normand S. Patton (1852–1915) was the senior partner of Patton and Miller. A Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate and Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, Patton was a leading Chicago architect of the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries. He is known principally for his designs of libraries, schools, collegiate buildings and churches throughout the Midwest. He began practicing architecture in Chicago in 1874. Grant C. Miller joined the firm in 1896. Between 1901 and 1912 (the period in which Crawfordsville High School was designed) the firm was known as Patton and Miller. Patton practiced architecture until his death in 1915. Miller continued as a partner with the successor firm of Miller, Holms and Flynn.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9

Page 5 of 7

Crawfordsville High School
Montgomery County, Indiana

Bibliography:

Architectural Plans, Elevations, and Sections for Crawfordsville High School, 1910, Patton and Miller Architects.

The Athenian. Crawfordsville: Journal Printing Company, 1912-1963.

Cline, Pat. *Crawfordsville: A Pictorial History*. St. Louis: G. Bradley Publishing, Inc.

"Cornerstone of new school laid during ceremony," *Montgomery Magazine*, April 1933.

"Floor Plans of the Handsome New Crawfordsville High School Building," *Crawfordsville Journal*, 31 May 1910.

"History of Ground Where High School Stands is Traced," *Crawfordsville Journal*, 30 June 1928.

History of Montgomery County, Indiana. Indianapolis: A.W. Bowen and Company, 1913.

Sanborn Map Company, Fire Insurance Maps for Crawfordsville, Indiana, 1913, 1925.

Sinkevitch, Alice, Ed. *AIA Guide to Chicago*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1993.

Taylor, Robert, et al. *Indiana: A New Historical Guide*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1989.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Company, 1956.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10

Page 6 of 7

Crawfordsville High School
Montgomery County, Indiana

Verbal Boundary Description

Crawfordsville High School is located on a square bounded by East Jefferson Street on the north, Seminary Street on the east, Central Avenue on the south, and School Street on the west. Historically known as Jefferson Square.

Boundary Justification

Crawfordsville High School occupies the entire city block.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7

Page 7 of 7

**Crawfordsville High School
Montgomery County, Indiana**

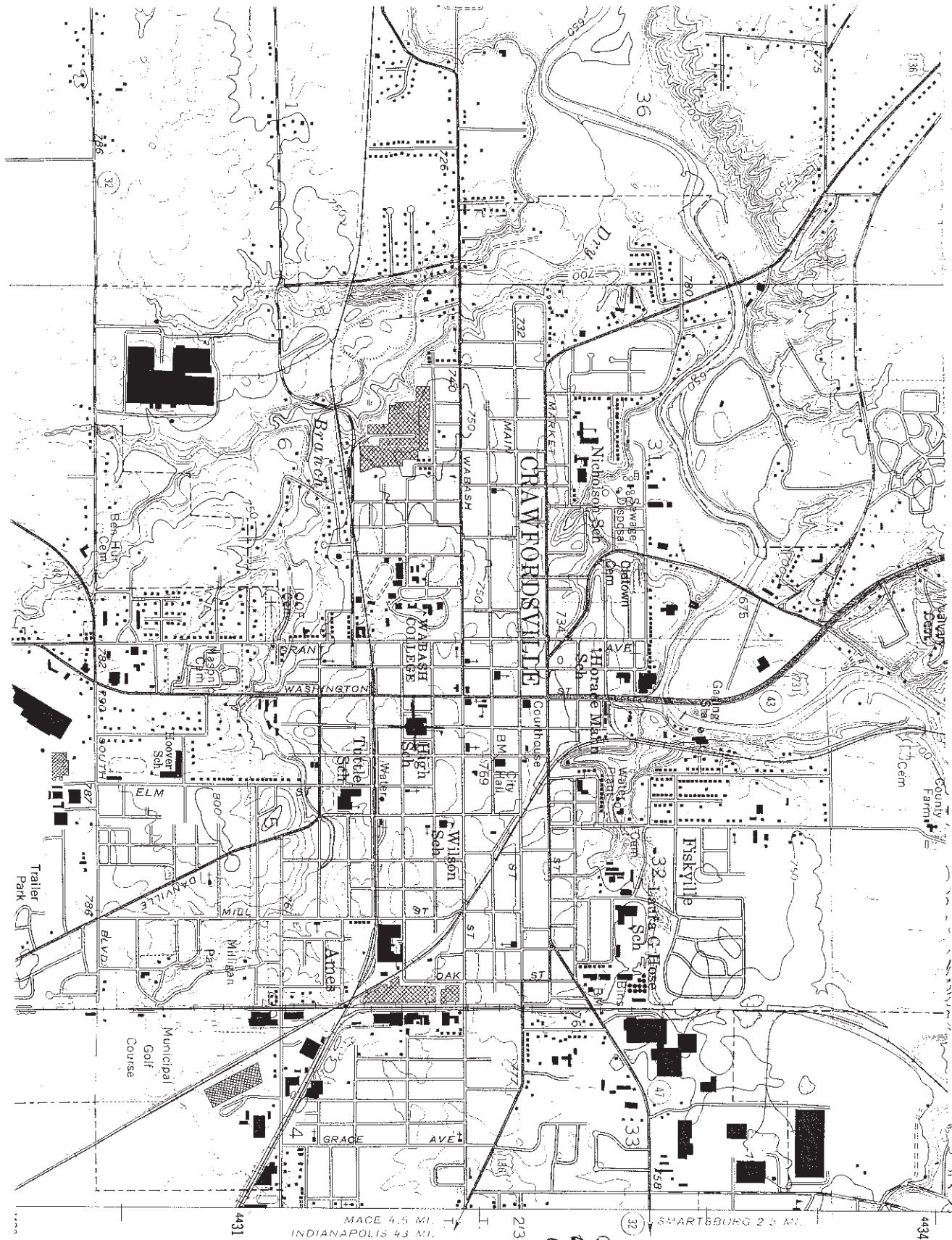
Photographs:

Photographer: Paul Baumgarten

Date: 17 September 2002

Location of Original Negatives: Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division

1. North and west elevations, view facing southeast.
2. North elevation detail, view facing southeast.
3. Southeast gymnasium entrance, view facing northwest.
4. South and east elevations, view facing northwest.
5. Lower gymnasium, 1941 addition, view facing southwest.
6. First floor corridor, original 1910 building, view facing northwest.
7. Typical corridor, second floor of original 1910 building and 1914 addition, view facing south.
8. Original secondary stair, 1914 addition, view facing southwest.
9. Original third floor corridor, view facing west.
10. Typical dwelling unit, third floor, view facing southwest.
11. Typical dwelling unit, third floor, view facing northeast.
12. 1921 Auditorium, view facing southwest.
13. 1941 Gymnasium, view facing northeast.
14. Typical corridor, 1941 gymnasium, second floor, view facing south.



MADE 4.5 MI. INDIANAPOLIS 43 MI. SMARTSBURG 23 MI.

CRAWFORDVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
 204 EAST JEFFERSON STREET
 CRAWFORDVILLE, IN
 2307 16 508590
 44124720